

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-28 are pending. The support in the originally filed application for the amendments to Claims 1, 12 and 18 is found in p.7, [0021] or lines 2-10 and p.11, [0037] or lines 5-19. No new matter is added.

Claims 1, 4-8 and 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Hasebe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,022). (Office Action, page 2)

The filter now claimed recites that “metals are present and consist of metal complexes” which is not the teaching of the combination of Aibe in view of Hasebe. In brief, Aibe discloses various metals (especially alkali metal iodides) may be supported on an activated carbon honeycomb as the free metal or as a compound containing the metal (col.8, lines 16-18). Aibe does not disclose metal complexes. Hasebe discloses bedding with tick wraps, wherein at least a part of a wadding fiber A retains more than 1% by weight of a metal complex having oxidation-reduction power, and a fiber B retains metal ions (col.1, lines 58-62). At the minimum, the combination of references teaches at least the *combination of metal ions and metal complexes*. Without a teaching of only metal complexes, the combination of references cannot logically be interpreted to teach a filter with only metal complexes, for example, as nothing of the kind is disclosed or suggested.

On the contrary, Aibe recites in col.6, lines 4-14:

The above iodine-supporting activated carbon honeycomb shows a high deodorizing/adsorbing capacity for a variety of malodorous and harmful gaseous components. Particularly, it shows a remarkably high deodorizing/adsorbing capacity for sulfur-containing compounds such as hydrogen sulfide, methylmercaptan and other mercaptans, sulfides, amines such as monomethylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, and aldehydes such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde. The deodorizing/adsorbing capacity for sulfur-containing compounds is especially remarkable.

Similarly, Hasebe recites in col. 6, lines 53-61:

Therefore, mercaptan and aldehyde, etc., are oxidized by fiber A, indole, etc., are cleavaged by fiber A and ammonia and amine, etc., adsorbed by fiber B so that foul smell of urine and sweat are removed. The deodorizing power of the fibers lasts over a long term. The bedding of this invention can be made by the method described in the above examples and others. The feature of the bedding of this invention is particularly effective for long-term bedridden patients.

Thus the combination of references teaches at the minimum the combination of both metal ions and metal complexes. Based on the disclosures, there can be no other logical interpretation, as the references cannot be interpreted to exclude metal compounds.

As a result, the combination of references fails to make the invention now claimed *prima facie* obvious.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Hasebe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,022) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Ishii et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,414). (Office Action, page 4)

Ishii is cited for the disclosure of a quaternary ammonium salt. Ishii also discloses alkali metals, but not metal complexes. However, Ishii does not compensate for the deficiencies in the combination of Aibe and Hasebe described above. Therefore the combination with Ishii still fails to teach the invention now claimed and without more it is not *prima facie* obvious.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Hasebe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,022) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lindhe (U.S. Patent No. 5,944,878). (Office Action, page 5)

Lindhe is cited for disclosing a set of filters, provided with hydrazine and polyvinylamine, to remove malodorous gasses. However, Lindhe does not compensate for the

deficiencies in the combination of Aibe and Hasebe described above. Therefore the combination still fails to teach the invention now claimed and without more it is not *prima facie* obvious.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aibe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,288,306) in view of Hasebe et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,022) as applied to claims 1, 12 and 18 above, and further in view of Minemura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,936,094). (Office Action, page 5)

Minemura is cited for disclosing sodium hydroxide in a filter. However, Minemura does not compensate for the deficiencies in the combination of Aibe and Hasebe described above. Therefore the combination still fails to teach the invention now claimed and without more it is not *prima facie* obvious. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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